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COUNTRY

SOUTH VIETNAM (SVN)

NIC REPORT NO 307/68

SUBJECT

DATE AND PLACE

Montagnard Disenchantment with

NIC CASE NO

FET

the VIET CONG in DARLAC Province

DATE OF REPORT 13/03/68

DATE OF INFO December 1967 - January 1968

1 March 1968 (R - U)

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BAN ME THUOT City, DARLAC Province

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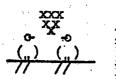
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- 1. In early December 1967 VIET CONG cadres went to BUON CO Hamlet, HUK SRAR Village, BUON HO District, DARLAC Province, gathered the people together and told them to prepare to help the VIET CONG in the coming months as the war would be decided in favor of the VIET CONG by March 1968. They were told that the coming battles would be country-wide. The people in the village were told to save their rice for the liberation forces and to eat vegetables as a substitute for the rice they were forbidden to eat. They would have to carry food and ammunition for the Army of Liberation when the time came and also to act as guides.
- 2. The villagers were afraid of the VIET CONG and did not trust them any:
 longer. They had been promissed victory in 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967 and
 now total victory would be achieved by March 1968. How could they believe
 them now? They told the villagers not to fear enemy aircraft because the
 war would soon be won. But every day there were more and more aircraft
 flying overhead, destroying their crops, and houses because they lived in
 VIET CONG-controlled area. Month by month their life became more difficult.
 It is harder to grow food because the village young were either fighting
 for the VIET CONG or the GVN or they were forced to carry food for the
 VIET CONG. They raised food but could not eat it.
- 3. People were leaving the village, trying to leave the controlled area, but they were watched and most of the people were brought back to the village after an unsuccessful attempt to escape. The villagers were not allowed to leave the village with their families for fear they would not return. The only way a man could leave the village was alone his family had to stay behind, in bond so to speak. (NIC Comments: Source's wife is still at his village).
- 4. The people in BUON CO Hamlet could not go to the GVN authorities at will and draw their attention to VIET CONG activities in the area for fear that if the VIET CONG found out about it their families in the hamlet would suffer reprisals.



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